

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 41, 42, and 45–48 were pending. Claims 41, 42, and 45–48 were rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 41, 45, and 47–48 have been amended. In addition, new claims 49–62 have been added. Thus, claims 41–42 and 45–62 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 41–42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,134,336 to Huffman et al. (“Huffman”). In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 41–42 and 45–62 as amended include limitations that are not disclosed by Huffman.

Specifically, independent claim 41 as amended recites as follows:

41. A fluid bearing comprising:
a bearing plate having a face surface including an orifice coupled to a plurality of grooves edged on the face surface to supply fluid; and
a surface restrictor disposed within at least one groove to restrict a flow of the fluid in the at least one groove as a pressure of the flow of the fluid increases within the at least one groove.

(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 41 includes limitations of an orifice coupled to multiple grooves to supply fluid, where at least one of the grooves includes a surface restrictor to restrict a flow of the fluid in the respective groove as a pressure of the flow of the fluid increases. It is respectfully submitted that the above limitations are absent from Huffman.

Rather, Huffman discloses lands 46 and grooves 47 arranged in alternating concentric manner to provide for pocketing of high pressure fluid supplied to the grooves 47 through orifice 48 (see, Fig. 7, col. 5, lines 57–71 of Huffman). Huffman fails to disclose a surface

restrictor within a groove to restrict (e.g., partially block or partial resistance) a flow of fluid as evident in Fig. 7 of Huffman. Therefore, independent claim 41 is not anticipated by Huffman.

Similarly, independent claims 45 and 61 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 41. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claims 45 and 61 are not anticipated by Huffman.

Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, at least for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are not anticipated by Huffman.

Claims 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 55-115973 to Matsumoto (“Matsumoto”). Claims 45-46 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,407,280 to Heinzl et al. (“Heinzl”). Claims 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by IBM Technical Disclosure entitled “Air Bearing Construction” (“IBM”).

It is submitted that the above cited references (e.g., Matsumoto, Heinzl, and IBM) also fail to disclose or suggest the limitations set forth above, individually or in combination. Therefore, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 41-42 and 45-62 are not anticipated by the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

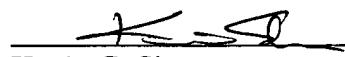
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Kevin G. Shao

Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,095

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300